

REASON & REVELATION

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES

October 2008
Vol. 28, No. 10

IS AMERICA DOOMED? (PART II)

Dave Miller, Ph.D.

[EDITORS' NOTE: This article is the second installment in a three-part series based on the author's seminar and soon-to-be-released book—*The Silencing of God: The Dismantling of America's Christian Heritage*. Part I appeared in the September issue. Part II follows below, and continues, without introductory comments, where the first article ended.]

Summary

The butchery of babies and sexual perversion undoubtedly will go down in history as primary contributors to the moral and spiritual deterioration, decline, and collapse of American society (see Miller, 2006). Abortion and homosexuality are glaring proofs of the expanding rejection of God in American civilization. They show the extent to which Americans are severing themselves from the laws of God in exchange for wanton indulgence of human passion. Forget where a candidate stands on health care, the environment, and social security! **We simply must lay aside all the other political issues that vie for our attention and affect our finances, and vote based on where a candidate stands on these two premiere moral issues that will spell the doom of our nation.** If the nation is punished for its moral degradation, our finances will be the least of our worries.

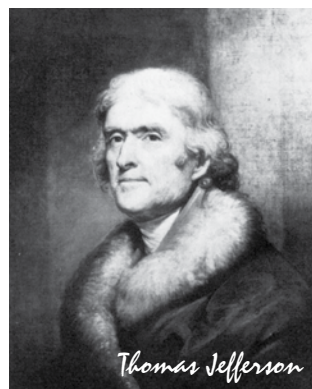
The social turbulence of the 1960s created a revolution in societal mores among the baby boomer generation. The stated philosophy of "do your own thing" literally has "gone to seed" in American society. The result is that many Americans live their lives and make their day-to-day

moral decisions on the basis of a hodgepodge of values drawn from a variety of sources. Situation ethics is the order of the day, and the average person simply acts on his feelings and personal opinions. Morality is now individualistic—with each person formulating his own belief system and then measuring his behavior against that subjective, personal, moral framework. Concomitant with the development of this circumstance is the corresponding sentiment that no one should "judge" anyone else's beliefs or actions, and everyone should be "tolerant" of the diversity of viewpoints that permeate society.

The Founders were adamant in their insistence that the survival of the Republic depends on its citizens maintaining unchanging Christian moral virtue. They would be deeply saddened to see the extent to which our civilization has slumped from its original high moral ground. In a letter from Paris dated August 28, 1789, Thomas Jefferson wrote to James Madison: "I know but one code of morality for men whether acting singly or

collectively" (Jefferson, 1789). He was simply expressing the widespread view of the Founders as well as the populace of the United States at the time. Indeed, he merely articulated biblical reality, in which moral value, good, and evil, are defined by the Creator in His Word, the Bible. By that Word and by that standard, every human life will one day be measured. In the words of Jesus Christ: "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

At a time when French immorality was notorious, John Jay related two experiences he had while in France:



CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Is America Doomed? (Part II)

Dave Miller. 73

DEPARTMENTS

Speaking Schedules 77

Note from the Editor

New Environmentalism Booklet & Children's DVD 80

RESOURCES

Is Punishing Evildoers Unloving? 37-R
Dinosaur Art and Imaginary Creatures 40-R

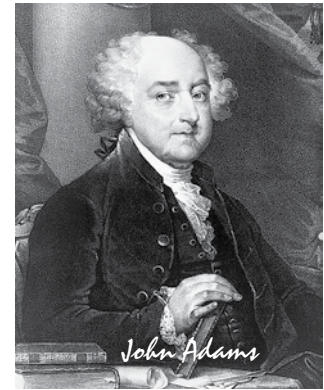
www.ApologicsPress.org



During my residence there, I do not recollect to have had more than two conversations with atheists about their tenets. The first was this: I was at a large party, of which were several of that description. **They spoke freely and contemptuously of religion.** I took no part in the conversation. In the course of it, one of them asked me if I believed in Christ? **I answered that I did, and that I thanked God that I did....** Some time afterward, one of my family being dangerously ill, I was advised to send for an English physician who had resided many years at Paris.... But, it was added, he is an atheist.... [D]uring one of his visits, [he] very abruptly remarked that there was no God and he hoped the time would come when there would be no religion in the world. I very concisely remarked that **if there was no God there could be no moral obligations, and I did not see how society could**

subsist without them... (as quoted in Jay, 1833, 2:346-347, emp. added). Patrick Henry shared Jay's assessment of France. In fact, Henry, who "realized as few men did the danger to the republican institutions of his country from the undermining influence of French infidelity, set himself to counteracting its baneful influence by every means in his power" (Henry, 1891, 2:200). Hear his forthright denunciation of French morals:

But, as to France, I have no doubt in saying, that to her it will be calamitous. Her conduct has made it the interest of the great family of mankind to wish the downfall of her present government; because its existence is incompatible with that of all others within its reach. And, whilst I see the dangers that threaten ours from her intrigues and her arms, I am not so much alarmed as at **the apprehension of her destroying the great pillars**

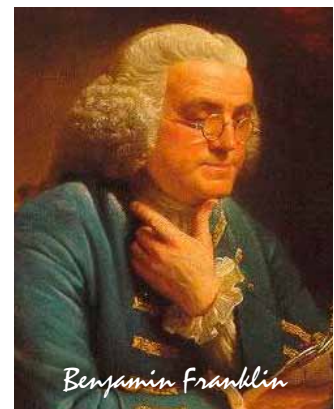


of all government and of social life; I mean virtue, morality, and religion. This is the armor, my friend, and this alone, that renders us invincible. These are the tactics we should study. If we lose these, we are conquered, fallen indeed (1891, 2:591-592, emp. added).

After serving two terms as Vice-President alongside President George Washington, the second President of these United States, John Adams, delivered a speech to military officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts on October 11, 1798. In this speech, Adams included an uncompromising affirmation of the essentiality of Christian morality:

We have no government armed with power capable of contending with **human passions unbridled by morality and religion....** Our constitution was made only for a **moral and religious people.** It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other (1854, 9:229, emp. added).

In a letter written from Philadelphia to the Abbés Chalut and Arnoux on April 17, 1787, Benjamin Franklin spoke positively of the relative calmness with which Americans were handling the "overturning" caused by the Revolution, which he attributed to America's stable moral framework:



Reason & Revelation is published monthly by Apologetics Press, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Montgomery, AL. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **Reason & Revelation**, 230 Landmark Dr., Montgomery, AL 36117; **ISSN:**[1542-0922] **USPS** # 023415.

Apologetics Press is a non-profit, tax-exempt work dedicated to the defense of New Testament Christianity. Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved.

Editor:

Dave Miller, Ph.D.*
(*Communication, Southern Illinois University)

Associate Editor:

Kyle Butt, M.A.*
(*New Testament, Freed-Hardeman University)

Annual Subscription Rates:

\$10.00 Domestic
\$ 8.00 Domestic Bulk
(5+ to same address)
\$16.00 Canada & Overseas Airmail

General inquiries, changes of address, or international callers:

Phone: (334) 272-8558
Fax: (334) 270-2002

Orders:

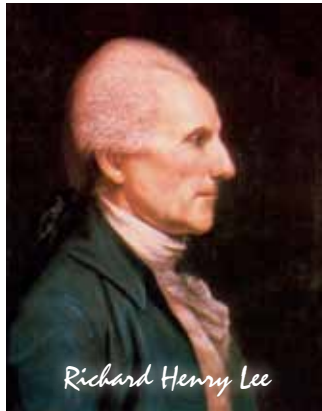
Phone: (800) 234-8558
Fax: (800) 234-2882

On-line Web store/catalog, subscription order/renewal form, current issues, archives, and other information (all orders processed on a secure server):

URL: www.ApologeticsPress.org
URL: www.ApologeticsPress.org/espanol
E-mail: mail@ApologeticsPress.org

Discovery—Scripture & Science for Kids is a sister publication for children. For more information, please contact our offices or visit the Discovery Web site at:

URL: www.DiscoveryMagazine.com

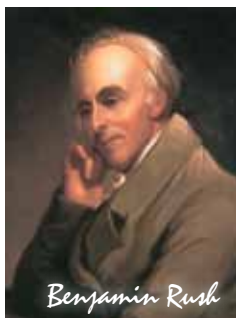


Your reflections on our situation compared with that of many nations of Europe, are very sensible and just. Let me add, that **only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters** (1988, emp. added).

Declaration signer and president of the Continental Congress (1784), Richard Henry Lee, emphatically affirmed on March 6, 1786: “It is certainly true that a popular government **cannot flourish without virtue in the people**” (1914, 2:411, emp. added). Dr. Benjamin Rush added his blunt observation: “Without the restraints of religion and social worship, **men become savages**” (1951, 1:505, emp. added).

In his critique of France’s revolution, Founder Noah Webster spoke with displeasure of the French revolutionists’ “impious attempts to exterminate every part of the Christian religion,” and, referring to himself in the third person, insisted:

He is not yet convinced that men are capable of such perfection on earth, as to regulate all their actions by moral rectitude, **without the restraints of religion and law**. He does not believe with the French atheist, that the universe is composed solely of matter and motion, without a Supreme Intelligence; nor that man is solely the creature of education. He believes that **God, and not education, gives man his passions**; and that the busi-



ness of education is **to restrain and direct the passions to the purposes of social happiness**. He believes that man will always have passions—that these passions will frequently urge him into vices—that **religion has an excellent effect in repressing vices, in softening the manners of men,** and consoling them under the pressure of calamities (1794, Vol. 2, Ch. 44, emp. added).

All of these Founders, and many more, understood and believed the biblical declaration: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). We must rise up and petition political authorities in behalf of Christian morality. We have an evangelistic responsibility!

Consider the solemn, virtually prophetic, warning issued by James A. Garfield, who became the 20th President of the United States in 1880:

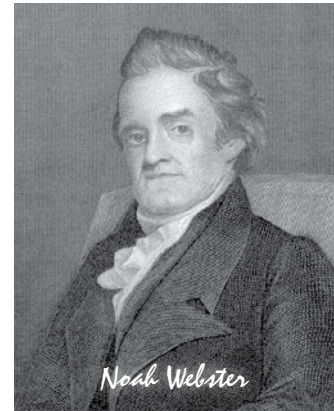
Now, more than ever before, **the people are responsible for the character of their Congress**. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature.... If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because **those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces** (as quoted in Taylor, 1970, p. 180, emp. added).

And consider the relevant advice of the first Chief Justice of the first U.S. Supreme Court, John Jay, who, in a letter to Jedidiah Morse on January 1, 1813, commented on whether Christians should elect non-Christians to public office:

Whether our religion permits Christians to vote for infidel rulers is a question which merits more consideration than it seems yet to have generally received either from the clergy or the laity. It appears to me that what the prophet said to Jehoshaphat about his attachment to Ahab affords a salutary lesson (1890, 4:365).

Jay was referring to the query posed by Jehu: “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord?” (2 Chronicles 19:2). Jay further insisted that Americans must be diligent in their political selections since it was God who gave us this privilege:

Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers. It is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest, of

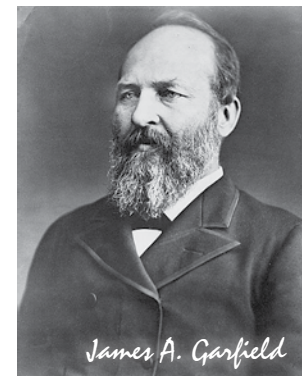


our Christian nation to select and prefer **Christians for their rulers** (as quoted in Jay, 1833, 2:376, emp. added).

Noah Webster was in complete agreement:

[L]et it be impressed on your mind that **God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God** [an allusion to Exodus 18:21—DM]. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted.... If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, **it must be because the citizens neglect the Divine commands and elect bad men to make and administer the laws** (1832, pp. 336-337, emp. added).

Jethro delineated for his son-in-law, Moses, four critical qualifications for political leaders that match God’s view of the matter: “Moreover you shall select from all the people **able men**, such as **fear God**, men of **truth**, hating **covetousness**” (Exodus 18:21, emp. added). Or as Solomon stated: “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.... The king establishes the land



by justice, but he who receives bribes overthrows it" (Proverbs 29:2,4).

The fact is, **we had better forget politics and party loyalties**, and learn to think and act **spiritually**. We must view political issues from the perspective of God as indicated in His Word (Isaiah 55:8-9; Jeremiah 10:23). We must learn to make decisions in harmony with Christian morals and principles. Signer of the *Declaration* and physician, Dr. Benjamin Rush, put this matter in perspective:

I have been alternately called an aristocrat and a democrat. I am neither. **I am a Christocrat**. I believe all power... will always fail of producing order and happiness in the hands of man. He alone who created and redeemed man is qualified to govern him (as quoted in Ramsay, 1813, p. 103, emp. added).

VI. Boycott Hollywood. Do not enable the entertainment industry in its wicked assault on morality. Hollywood does not represent what America has always been about. In fact, they are as antagonistic and hostile toward God, Christianity, and true patriotism as anyone can be. And many Americans are insanely enamored with the fluff and glitter of such frivolous pursuits. Indeed, with the passing of the World War II generation, succeeding generations of Americans have little or no interest in the higher, nobler aspects of human existence, cultivating moral excellence and the virtuous development of the human spirit. Instead, entertainment, pleasure, physical stimulation, and indulging fleshly appetites now take center stage. To show the extent to which Americans have degenerated in their sensibilities, who would have ever imagined that the day could ever come when an *American Idol* contestant would generate more votes than any U.S. President has received (August, et al., 2006, p. 23)? **We ought to be ashamed—and alarmed.** Does recreation and playing mean more to us than our souls, the souls of our children, and the survival of our society?

VII. Be resolute, steadfast, and unmovable. Do not give up. Stay with the battle. America's current condition did not develop overnight. It will take time and persistence to turn the nation around.

To capsule these seven items: **STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT!** Verbalize and articulate the truth at every opportunity. The solution to all of the problems

encountered by humans is the Word of God. The Bible has the answers!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN...

What lies ahead for America when a sizable percentage of the citizenry no longer acknowledges or submits to the God of the Bible? What is going to happen to this country when many of our people no longer believe that a nation is blessed only if its God is the Lord? What does the future hold, given the direction we are going? When one examines the sweeping scope of human history, it becomes readily apparent that progress is not linear. Rather, nations rise and fall. The progress that they achieve is often lost to later civilizations, who must essentially "reinvent the wheel." Archaeological evidence exists to substantiate the fact that highly advanced civilizations have preceded modern times, creating many enigmas for researchers. The Moche were a highly developed society that vanished centuries ago. The ancient Paracas performed medieval wonders in brain surgery using only crude metal instruments. The fabled Macchu Picchu achieved incredible engineering feats ("Inca...", 1995). The Nasca (or perhaps their predecessors) produced massive drawings that stretch for miles and are thus visible/discernible only from the air ("The Lost City...", 2000; "Nasca Lines," n.d.).

What happened to such civilizations? Why are they now nonexistent? One would expect that the likelihood of a nation's survival would increase in proportion to the technological, medical, and economic progress. One explanation for this circumstance (perhaps the explanation) is provided by the Bible. Simply stated, the Bible affirms that as a nation moves in the direction of spiritual and moral depravity, becoming increasingly alienated from God, that nation positions itself for inevitable destruction. That destruction may come in the form of natural disasters—such as volcanoes (e.g., Pompey). It may come in the form of external invasion—as in the case of the fall of Babylonia or Rome. It can even come in the form of direct, miraculous intervention by God—as in the case of Sodom and the other cities of the plain (Genesis 19:29).

...ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?

This principle is alluded to repeatedly in Scripture. When God promised to Abraham that his descendents would be given the land of Canaan as their homeland, He noted that this gift would not be given for several hundred years. Why the delay? "[F]or the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete" (Genesis 15:16). God would not have displaced one group of people simply in order to give another group the land. That would be unjust and prejudicial—in direct contradiction to God's nature (Deuteronomy 32:4). He eventually allowed the Israelites to conquer Canaan because the peoples that inhabited the land had grown exceedingly wicked. Coincidental to reception of the land, God used the Israelites to punish the Canaanites for their perversion and depravity.

For the land is defiled; therefore **I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.** You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you (**for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled**), lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the Lord your God (Leviticus 18:25-30, emp. added).

Observe that God gives civilizations a considerable amount of time—even hundreds of years—to choose the spiritual and moral direction they will take. If they are determined to spiral downward in an ever-deepening devotion to idolatry, covetousness, sexual impurity, etc., then God eventually "lowers the boom" and destroys them for their iniquity (cf. the Genesis Flood). The inspired writer of the book of Kings compared the wickedness of King Ahab to the previous inhabitants of the land of Canaan, noting the reason for their destruction: "And he behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the Lord had cast out

Is Punishing Evildoers Unloving?

Eric Lyons, M.Min.

It is not uncommon to hear Americans (and others) verbalize contempt for corporal or capital punishment (cf. Delgado, 2008). Supposedly, “**Loving** parents wouldn’t strike their children” (for disciplinary purposes). “Christians can’t logically be pro-life **and** pro-capital punishment.” “The Bible says to repay no one evil for evil.” Modernists utter these and similar phrases frequently in hopes of doing away with all forms of corporal and capital punishment. Make a child stand in the corner, give a student detention, lock a murderer up for life with three square meals a day, air conditioning, cable television, etc., but **never** physically harm or kill a person for his or her unauthorized actions.

What does the Bible say about love and the physical punishment of evildoers? First, God is innately and infinitely good and loving (Mark 10:18; 1 John 4:8). Yet, from killing untold thousands (or millions) of wicked individuals during the Flood (Genesis 6-8) to striking Ananias and Sapphira dead for lying just after the establishment of the church (Acts 5:1-11), God repeatedly has punished evildoers physically.

Second, God warned Adam of the death sentence before sin ever entered the world (Genesis 2:17; cf. Lyons, 2002). After Adam disobeyed God, He drove him from the garden and the tree of life “lest he...live forever” (Genesis 3:22-24). Thus, man not only separated himself spiritually from God when he sinned in the Garden, experiencing spiritual death for the first time (cf. Isaiah 59:1-2; Ephesians 2:1), man was also sentenced to die physically.

Third, long before the commencement of the Mosaic and Christian dispensations, God’s universal law for mankind included capital punishment. God directed Noah and his sons, saying, “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man” (Genesis 9:6). The same God Who sentenced mankind, save eight souls, to death for wickedness one year earlier, commanded man to put murderers to death. Of all the regulations God could have revealed to man in Genesis 1-11 (from the time of Adam to Abraham), He chose to include the law to put murderers to death.

Fourth, further proof that loving-kindness and corporal or capital punishment are not

antithetical comes from the Law of Moses. God commanded the Israelites, saying,

You shall not hate your brother in your heart....
You shall not take vengeance nor bear any
grudge against the children of your people,
but you shall love your neighbor as yourself....
And if a stranger dwells with you in your land,
you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who
dwells among you shall be to you as one born
among you, and you shall love him as yourself
(Leviticus 19:17-18,33-34; cf. Romans 13:9).

The faithful Jew was expected, as are Christians, to “not resist an evil person” (Matthew 5:39) but rather “go the extra mile” (Matthew 5:41) and “turn the other cheek” (Matthew 5:39). “Love,” after all, “is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10; cf. Matthew 22:36-40). Interestingly, however, the Israelite was commanded to punish (even kill) lawbreakers. Just five chapters after commanding the Israelite to “not take vengeance,” but “love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18), God said:

Take outside the camp him who has cursed;
then let all who heard him lay their hands on
his head, and **let all the congregation stone
him**. Then you shall speak to the children of
Israel, saying: Whoever curses his God shall
bear his sin. And whoever blasphemes the
name of the Lord shall surely be put to death.
**All the congregation shall certainly stone
him**, the stranger as well as him who is born
in the land. When he blasphemes the name of
the Lord, he shall be put to death. **Whoever
kills any man shall surely be put to death**.
Whoever kills an animal shall make it good,
animal for animal. If a man causes disfigure-
ment of his neighbor, as he has done, so shall
it be done to him—fracture for fracture, eye
for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused
disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done
to him. And whoever kills an animal shall
restore it; but **whoever kills a man shall
be put to death**. You shall have the same
law for the stranger and for one from your
own country; for I am the Lord your God
(Leviticus 24:13-22, emp. added).

A faithful Israelite was commanded (and thus expected) to be loving, kind, and non-vengeful, while at the same time be a punisher of evildoers, including both corporal and capital punishment. Similarly, God commanded Christians to “not avenge yourselves” (Romans 12:19), but rather “overcome evil with good” (12:21)

(continued on 40-R)



and “love your neighbor as yourself” (13:9). Yet, fathers are commanded to bring their children up “in the **chastening** and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4, ASV, emp. added). What’s more, Paul wrote that “governing authorities” are God’s servants for good, yet they also “bear the sword” and “execute wrath on him who practices evil” (Romans 13:1-4).

Although the politically correct continue to protest the physical punishment of evildoers, based upon their **feelings** that such is unkind, unloving, inhumane, etc., **Scripture** is abundantly clear on the subject. God has indicated that individuals can be loving, kind, considerate, evangelistic, non-vengeful, etc.,

and yet still expect the authorities to punish evildoers physically.

REFERENCES

- Delgado, Raimundo (2008), “Let’s Kill Capital Punishment,” *Sun Coast Today*, January 16, [On-line], URL: <http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080116/OPINION/801160320/-1/NEWS>.
- Lyons, Eric (2002), “Why Didn’t Adam Die Immediately?” [On-line], URL: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/611>.

Dinosaur Art and Imaginary Creatures

Numerous artifacts from ancient civilizations depict creatures that perfectly match our modern-day descriptions of dinosaurs (see Butt and Lyons, 2008). Those who insist that dinosaurs and humans did not live together, however, claim that the animals illustrated in ancient art that look like dinosaurs are imaginary creatures that have no basis in reality. These people suggest that since we know carvings of imaginary gods, minotaurs, mermaids, and aliens have no basis in reality, neither should we think that dinosaur-like creatures do—regardless of how much they look like dinosaurs. John Clayton wrote:

Finding an ancient picture of a dragon, minotaur, or alien-looking creature and assuming it is in reality what people saw is an **incredibly ignorant thing to do**. This applies to creationists who try to maintain people of 4,000 years cavorted with dinosaurs, but also to atheists who attempt to explain the origin of life by claiming aliens seeded the planet with DNA packets. There is no evidence for either of these proposals, and neither of them has any historical support” (2007, 34[4]:4, emp. added).

A major problem arises, however, when those such as Clayton attempt to lump “dragons” in with other creatures such as minotaurs or aliens. No physical evidence is available to verify the existence of minotaurs. Furthermore, the laws of biology preclude even the possibility of such. We do not believe the ancients saw minotaurs **because we do not believe there ever were minotaurs**.

The situation with creatures that look like dinosaurs is much different. Everyone involved

in the discussion believes that huge reptiles once roamed the Earth. The question is not, “Did huge reptilian creatures, that match the ancient carvings, exist?” The question is, “Did they exist **with humans**?” Dinosaurs are not imaginary creatures dismissed by reputable sources. Their bones have been found, fossilized nests uncovered, and their skin impressions studied. Millions of dollars every year pour into dinosaur research. If thousands of minotaur fossils had been found, some of them very close to the carvings that depict creatures that looked just like minotaurs, then minotaurs could not be dismissed as imaginary creatures, and the carvings and drawings could not be dismissed as depictions of imaginary creatures. The difference between art depicting minotaurs and art showing dinosaur-like creatures is that everyone knows dinosaurs existed—that is not up for debate.

Kyle Butt

REFERENCES

- Butt, Kyle and Eric Lyons (2008), “Physical Evidence for the Coexistence of Dinosaurs and Humans [Part 1],” *Reason & Revelation*, 28[3]:17-23, [On-line], URL: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/3626>.
- Clayton, John (2007), “What is Reliable History and What is Not,” *Does God Exist?*, 34[4]:3-7, July/August.



before the children of Israel” (1 Kings 21:25-26).

This same principle is reiterated in the New Testament. Jesus summarized the history of Israel as one of frequent rebellion against divine precepts. He intimated that they were nearing the limit of God’s toleration and impending punishment when He declared to them: “Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt” (Matthew 23:32). It was as if an imaginary cup had been gradually filling up with sin, and that it was nearing the brim—at which time God would respond with appropriate destruction. Paul verified this very understanding when he accused his fellow Jews of having been the ones “who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to **fill up the measure of their sins**; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost (1 Thessalonians 2:15-16, emp. added). As the Jews entrenched themselves against the will of God, they were guilty of piling sins on top of sins, until inevitable divine wrath would be forthcoming—as it did when the Romans sacked Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Writing centuries earlier, the inspired writer of Kings acknowledged this principle in his summary of the Jews’ national history:

And the Lord spoke by His servants the prophets, saying, “Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations (he has **acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were be-**

fore him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols), therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Behold, **I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah**, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle. And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; **I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down**. So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies, **because they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day**” (2 Kings 21:10-15, emp. added).

Observe that the writer compared the sin of the Israelites with the sin of the previous occupants of the land of Canaan, thus earning for themselves the same outcome: divine retribution and devastation. As the prophet Ezekiel reported: “Thus I will make the land desolate, because they have persisted in unfaithfulness,” says the Lord God” (15:8).

[to be continued]

REFERENCES

- Adams, John (1850-1856), *The Works of John Adams, Second President of the United States*, ed. Charles Adams (Boston, MA: Little, Brown, & Company).
- August, Melissa, et al. (2006), “Milestones,” *Time*, 167[23]: June 5.
- Franklin, Benjamin (1988), *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* (Digital Edition), ed. Barbara Oberg (Los Altos, CA: The Packard Humanities Institute), [On-line], URL: <http://www.franklinpapers.org/franklin/>.
- Henry, Patrick (1891), *Patrick Henry; Life, Correspondence and Speeches*, ed. William Henry (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons), [On-line], URL: <http://www.archive.org/details/pathenrylife-01henrrich>.
- “Inca, Secrets of the Ancestors” (1995), *Time Life’s Lost Civilizations Series*, [On-line], URL: <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/llilas/centers/outreach/resources/topic/inca.html>.
- Jay, John (1890), *The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay, 1763-1781*, ed. Henry Johnston (New York: Burt Franklin).
- Jay, William (1833), *The Life of John Jay* (New York: J. & J. Harper).
- Jefferson, Thomas (1789), “Letter to James Madison, August 28, 1789,” *The Thomas Jefferson Papers Series 1. General Correspondence, 1751-1827*, Library of Congress, [On-line], URL: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?amem/m/tj:@field\(DOCLID+@lit\(tj050135\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?amem/m/tj:@field(DOCLID+@lit(tj050135))).
- Lee, Richard Henry (1914), *The Letters of Richard Henry Lee*, ed. James Ballagh (New York: MacMillan).
- “The Lost City of Nasca” (2000), *BBC*, [On-line], URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/horizon/1999/nasca.shtml>.
- Miller, Dave (2006), *Sexual Anarchy* (Montgomery, AL: Apologetics Press).
- “Nasca Lines” (no date), [On-line], URL: <http://www.crystalinks.com/nasca.html>.
- Ramsay, David (1813), *An Eulogium Upon Benjamin Rush, M.D.* (Philadelphia, PA: Bradford & Inskeep).
- Rush, Benjamin (1951), *Letters of Benjamin Rush*, ed. L.H. Butterfield (Princeton, NJ: The American Philosophical Society).
- Taylor, John (1970), *Garfield of Ohio: The Available Man* (New York: W.W. Norton).
- Webster, Noah (1794), “The Revolution in France,” in *Political Sermons of the American Founding Era: 1730-1805*, ed. Ellis Sandoz (Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund), 1998 edition, [On-line], URL: <http://oll.libertyfund.org/title/817/69415>.
- Webster, Noah (1832), *History of the United States* (New Haven, CT: Durrie & Peck).

SPEAKING SCHEDULES

Kyle Butt

October 10-12	Newbern, TN	(731) 627-9050
November 7-9	Lithia Springs, GA	(770) 941-4100

Eric Lyons

October 5	Florence, AL	(256) 764-8856
November 14-16	Linden, AL	(334) 295-8365

Dave Miller

October 3-5	Cape Girardeau, MO	(573) 335-4619
October 11-14	Valdosta, GA	(229) 242-2174
October 17-19	Sabetha, KS	(785) 284-2022
October 20	Memphis, TN	(901) 743-0464
October 24-26	Dexter, MO	(573) 624-8906

The State Constitutions are...Unconstitutional?

Dave Miller, Ph.D.

The claim that the Founders and Framers of America, with its constitutions of government, intended “separation of church and state” will surely go down in history as one of the premiere myths of our day (organic evolution ranking near the top as well). The truth is that the Founders intended for God and Christianity, with its critical principles of morality, to remain woven into the fabric of public life—including our civil government, public schools, and community at large. Proof of this observation abounds. For example, consider the state constitutions. Of the 50 present state constitutions, 46 have “preambles.” And **45 of those 46 preambles make explicit, even passionate, appeals to the God of the Bible!** Here they are in alphabetical order (see “U.S. State...,” 2003):

Alabama

We, the people of the State of Alabama, in order to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, **invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God**, do ordain and establish the following Constitution and form of government for the State of Alabama.

Alaska

We the people of Alaska, **grateful to God** and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land, in order to secure and transmit to succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty within the Union of States, do ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Alaska.

Arizona

We, the people of the State of Arizona, **grateful to Almighty God** for our liberties, do ordain this Constitution.

Arkansas

We, the people of the State of Arkansas, **grateful to Almighty God** for the privilege of choosing our own form of government, for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings and secure the same to our selves and posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

California

We, the People of the State of California, **grateful to Almighty God** for our freedom, in order to secure and perpetuate its blessings, do establish this Constitution.

Colorado

We the people of Colorado, **with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe**, in order to form a more independent and perfect government; establish justice; insure tranquility; provide for the common defense; promote the general welfare and secure the blessings

of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the State of Colorado.

Connecticut

The people of Connecticut **acknowledging with gratitude, the good providence of God**, in having permitted them to enjoy a free government, do, in order more effectually to define, secure, and perpetuate the liberties, rights and privileges which they have derived from their ancestors, hereby, after a careful consideration and revision, ordain and establish the following constitution and form of civil government.

Delaware

Through **Divine goodness**, all men have by nature the rights of **worshipping and serving their Creator** according to the dictates of their consciences, of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring and protecting reputation and property, and in general of obtaining objects suitable to their condition, without injury by one to another....

Florida

We the people of the State of Florida, **being grateful to Almighty God** for our Constitutional liberty, in order to secure its benefits, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Georgia

To perpetuate the principles of free government, insure justice to all, preserve peace, promote the interest and happiness of the citizen and of the family and transmit to posterity the enjoyment of liberty, we the people of Georgia, **relying upon the protection and guidance of Almighty God**, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Hawaii

We, the people of Hawaii, **grateful for Divine Guidance**, and mindful of our Hawaiian heritage and uniqueness as an island State, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the philosophy decreed by the Hawaii State motto, “Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono”...do hereby ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Hawaii.

Idaho

We the people of the State of Idaho, **grateful to Almighty God** for our freedom, to secure its blessings and promote our common welfare, do establish this Constitution.

Illinois

We, the People of the State of Illinois—**grateful to Almighty God** for the civil, political and religious liberty **which He has permitted us to enjoy and seeking His blessing** upon our endeavors—in order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people;...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the State of Illinois.

Indiana

We the people of the State of Indiana, **grateful to Almighty God** for the free exercise of the right to choose our own form of government, do ordain this Constitution.

Iowa

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF IOWA, grateful to the Supreme Being for the blessings hitherto enjoyed, and **feeling our dependence on Him** for a continuation of those blessings, do ordain and establish a free and independent government, by the name of the State of Iowa....

Kansas

We, the people of Kansas, **grateful to Almighty God** for our civil and religious privileges, in order to insure the full enjoyment of our rights as American citizens, do ordain and establish the Constitution of the State of Kansas, with the following boundaries, to wit....

Kentucky

We the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, **grateful to Almighty God** for the civil, political and religious liberties we enjoy, and invoking the continuance of these blessings, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Louisiana

We, the people of Louisiana, **grateful to Almighty God** for the civil, political, economic, and religious liberties we enjoy, and desiring to protect individual rights to life, liberty, and property...do ordain and establish this constitution.

Maine

We the people of Maine, in order to establish justice, insure tranquility, provide for our mutual defense, promote our common welfare, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of liberty, **acknowledging with grateful hearts the goodness of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe** in affording us an opportunity, so favorable to the design; and, **imploping God's aid and direction** in its accomplishment...do ordain and establish the following Constitution for the government of the same.

Maryland

We, the People of the State of Maryland, **grateful to Almighty God** for our civil and religious liberty, and taking into our serious consideration the best means of establishing a good Constitution in this State for the sure foundation and more permanent security thereof, declare:

Massachusetts

...We, therefore, the people of Massachusetts, **acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the goodness of the great Legislator of the universe**, in affording us, in the course of **His providence**, an opportunity, deliberately and peaceably, without fraud, violence or surprise, of entering into an

original, explicit, and solemn compact with each other; and of forming a new constitution of civil government, for ourselves and posterity; and **devoutly imploring His direction** in so interesting a design, do agree upon, ordain and establish the following Declaration of Rights, and Frame of Government, as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Michigan

We, the people of the State of Michigan, **grateful to Almighty God** for the blessings of freedom, and earnestly desiring to secure these blessings undiminished to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution.

Minnesota

We, the people of the state of Minnesota, **grateful to God** for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings and secure the same to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution

Mississippi

We, the people of Mississippi in convention assembled, **grateful to Almighty God, and involving his blessing** on our work, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Missouri

We, the people of Missouri, **with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and grateful for His goodness**, do establish this Constitution for the better government of the State.

Montana

We the people of Montana **grateful to God** for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution.

Nebraska

We, the people, **grateful to Almighty God** for our freedom, do ordain and establish the following declaration of rights and frame of government.

Nevada

We the people of the State of Nevada, **grateful to Almighty God** for our freedom, in order to secure its blessings, insure domestic tranquility, and form a more perfect Government do establish this Constitution.

New Jersey

We, the people of the State of New Jersey, **grateful to Almighty God** for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing upon our endeavors to secure and transmit the same unimpaired to succeeding generations, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

New Mexico

We, the people of New Mexico, **grateful to Almighty God** for the blessings of liberty, in order to secure the advantages of a state government, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

New York

We the People of the State of New York, **grateful to Almighty God** for our Freedom, in order to secure its blessings, DO ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION.

North Carolina

We, the people of the State of North Carolina, **grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations**, for the preservation of the American Union and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and **acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those blessings** to us and our posterity, do, for the more certain security thereof and for the better government of this State, ordain and establish this Constitution.

North Dakota

We, the people of North Dakota, **grateful to Almighty God** for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, do ordain and establish this constitution.

Ohio

We, the people of the State of Ohio, **grateful to Almighty God** for our freedom, to secure its blessings and promote our common welfare, do establish this Constitution.

Oklahoma

Invoking the guidance of Almighty God, in order to secure and perpetuate the blessing of liberty; to secure just and rightful government; to promote our mutual welfare and happiness, we, the people of the State of Oklahoma, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Pennsylvania

We, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, **grateful to almighty God** for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and **humbly invoking His guidance**, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Rhode Island

We, the people of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, **grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing** upon our endeavors to secure and to transmit the same, unimpaired, to succeeding generations, do ordain and establish this Constitution of government.

South Carolina

We, the people of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, **grateful to God** for our liberties, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the preservation and perpetuation of the same.

South Dakota

We, the people of South Dakota, **grateful to Almighty God** for our civil and religious liberties, in order to form a more perfect and independent government...do ordain and establish this constitution for the state of South Dakota.

Texas

Humbly invoking the blessings of Almighty God, the people of the State of Texas, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Utah

Grateful to Almighty God for life and liberty, we, the people of Utah, in order to secure and perpetuate the principles of free government, do ordain and establish this CONSTITUTION.

Washington

We, the people of the State of Washington, **grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe** for our liberties, do ordain this constitution.

West Virginia

We the people of West Virginia, **through Divine Providence**, enjoy the blessings of liberty and reaffirm **our faith in and constant reliance upon God**.

Wisconsin

We, the people of Wisconsin, **grateful to Almighty God** for our freedom, in order to secure its blessings...do establish this Constitution.

Wyoming

We, the people of the State of Wyoming, **grateful to God** for our civil, political and religious liberties, and desiring to secure them to ourselves and perpetuate them to our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

CONCLUSION

Of the 46 state constitutions that contain preambles, only Oregon's has no reference to God. Hence, 45 of the 50 state constitutions refer to the God of the Bible. The objective observer is forced to conclude that the original framers of the state constitutions shared belief in and reliance on the same God that the national Framers possessed. If the current popular notion of "separation of church and state" were correct, why did the framers of the state constitutions unashamedly include such glaring, forthright acknowledgements of God? And why have such allusions remained to this day? It would be whimsical, if it were not so deadly serious, to consider that on the basis of today's ludicrous, inane standard, **45 of the state constitutions are, and have always been—UNCONSTITUTIONAL.**

REFERENCE

"U.S. State Constitutions and Web Sites" (2003), [On-line], URL: <http://www.constitution.org/cons/usstcons.htm>.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

APOLOGETICS
PRESS, INC.

NEW ENVIRONMENTALISM BOOKLET & CHILDREN'S DVD



Concerns over global warming, “going green,” protecting animals, and “saving the planet” have certainly become prominent issues among politicians, Hollywood entertainers, and the media elite. Yet, few seem interested in determining what the Bible has to say about such concerns. A.P. recently released a new booklet that summarizes the Christian viewpoint on these much-touted issues of our day. This timely treatise should be helpful in pointing people back to the Creator Who governs the Creation.

Additionally, A.P.’s flagship children’s television program, *Digger Doug’s Underground*, continues to entertain and enlighten young viewers. Kristen in San Diego, California writes:

My son absolutely loves the *Digger Doug’s Underground* DVDs!.... These are exactly what I’ve been seeking for my science-loving son. We’ve been through National Geographic and DK DVDs and books but they obviously focus on old-Earth and evolution.

Judy in Pulaski, Tennessee writes:

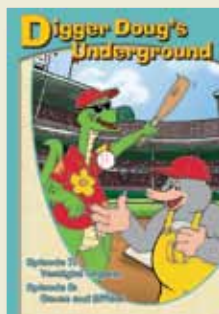
I wanted to let you know that our grandson, almost 4, really enjoys the *Digger Doug* video you sent—and the books too. They are good books. I’ve read all of the children’s books to him. We are going to buy some more of the videos for him.

Sasha in Henderson, Tennessee said:

Digger Doug’s Underground—LOVE IT!... I was really impressed.

Roni in Raytown, Missouri writes:

I bought the first of the *Digger Doug* DVD series.... I plan to buy Volume 2 and 3 of the series also.... Thanks for your part in making creation so easy for the kids to understand.



Such comments are typical. Here is a Christian program that rivals any secular children’s TV show, yet offers to young minds critical content on God as the Creator. Let’s face it—children are impressionable. They inevitably will be affected by those influences to which they are exposed. How fundamentally critical for parents and grandparents to provide resources for their children and grandchildren that will shape and nurture their spirits in the direction of God and His Word.

Digger Doug’s Underground airs regularly on the Gospel Broadcasting Network (www.gbntv.org). In our desire to make these programs available to a wider audience, we are gradually transferring episodes to DVD. Three volumes are already on the market. We are happy to announce the release of the next volume. Like its predecessors, Volume 4 is packaged in an attractive and colorful DVD box and contains two 30-minute episodes. Episode 7 is titled “Vestigial Organs” and Episode 8 is titled “Cause and Effect.” Past episode titles include “Days of Creation,” “Biomimicry,” “Dinosaurs and Artifacts,” “Dinosaurs and Natural History,” “What about the Big Bang?” and “After Their Kind.”

In my humble opinion, these DVDs should be in the home of every Christian parent who has young children. I can assure you, my four granddaughters are thoroughly familiar with the program’s characters and the foundational principles they teach. Let us do everything possible to insulate our little ones, and prepare them to face the sinister forces that threaten their thinking. A significant discount applies when all four volumes are purchased together.

Dave Miller

See the Center Spread for Pricing